

## NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

### Draft Environmental Impact Statement—South Mall Campus Master Plan

**AGENCY:** National Capital Planning Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comment; notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC or Commission) has released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Smithsonian Institution's (SI) South Mall Campus Master Plan. The DEIS is available for comment as of the date of this notice.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before January 16, 2018. Two public meetings will be held to discuss the DEIS:

1. Monday, December 11, 2017, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and
2. Monday, December 18, 2017, from 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meetings will be held at the National Capital Planning Commission, 401 9th Street NW., Suite 500, Washington, DC 20004.

A copy of the DEIS is available for review at NCPC, or at: <https://www.ncpc.gov/> and <http://www.southmallcampus.si.edu/>

You may submit written comments on the DEIS by either of the methods listed below.

1. U.S. mail, courier, or hand delivery: Urban Design & Plan Review Division/ National Capital Planning Commission, 401 9th Street NW., Suite 500, Washington, DC 20004.

2. Electronically: [commentsonsouthcampus@si.edu](mailto:commentsonsouthcampus@si.edu)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Matthew Flis, Senior Urban Designer at (202) 482-7236 or [matthew.flis@ncpc.gov](mailto:matthew.flis@ncpc.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Public Meetings

No prior registration is required to speak at the meetings. Reasonable accommodations are available upon request to the contact individual noted above.

##### Draft EIS

NCPC, acting as lead federal agency, along with SI, as the project owner, and in cooperation with the National Park Service, has prepared the DEIS to evaluate potential environmental impacts associated with implementing the South Mall Campus Master Plan. The DEIS has been prepared in compliance with the National

Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). SI proposes to prepare a Master Plan for its South Mall Campus to guide future short-term and long-term renovation and development of the 12-acre campus by establishing holistic planning and design principles. The campus currently includes five principle buildings and four designed gardens, located on the southern side of the National Mall within the monumental core of downtown Washington, DC. The Master Plan would be implemented over a 20 to 30 year period. The purpose of the Master Plan is to guide future short-term and long-term renovation of the South Mall Campus. The Master Plan is needed to meet SI's long-term space requirements, and to address operational deficiencies across the campus that impact visitor use and experience, as well as SI's ability to implement its programs effectively and safely. The project goals are to preserve and protect the historic buildings and features of the campus, improve and expand visitor services and education, create clear accessible entrances and connections between the museums, gardens and surrounding context, and replace aging and inefficient building systems in order to better protect collections and decrease SI's carbon footprint. The DEIS evaluates three master plan action alternatives, along with a no-action alternative.

**Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 4371-4375; 1 CFR 602.23(c).

Dated: November 8, 2017.

**Anne R. Schuyler,**  
General Counsel.

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**BILLING CODE 7520-01-P**

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Request for Information—Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee, Chaired by the National Science Foundation

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Request for information.

**SUMMARY:** The Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC), chaired by the National Science Foundation, is seeking comment from the public on how best to revise and strengthen the Principles for the Conduct of Research in the Arctic (<https://www.nsf.gov/geo/opp/arctic/conduct.jsp>). These Principles were adopted in 1990 by the federal agencies that participate in IARPC and published in 1990. Since 1990, community

engagement and Arctic research have advanced both in theory and in practice, necessitating a review and update of the current Principles. The update will focus on communicating clearly the Principles for community engagement by Arctic researchers and including language that describes partnerships and collaborations with Indigenous scholars, enhanced community-based observations, fostering community-based participatory research, and the integral contributions of Indigenous knowledge in the co-production and dissemination of knowledge. Input is also sought on enhancing the dissemination and implementation of the Principles.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted no later than January 16, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Email comments to [iarpccprinciples@nsf.gov](mailto:iarpccprinciples@nsf.gov). Address written submissions to Renee Crain, Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information contact Renee Crain at 703-292-4482.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** All researchers working in the North have an ethical responsibility toward northern communities, their cultures, and the environment. The Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC) developed the *Principles for the Conduct of Research in the Arctic* to provide guidance for researchers in the physical, biological, behavioral, health, economic, political, and social sciences and in the humanities. The current Principles were prepared by the Social Science Task Force of the U.S. Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee, approved by the IARPC on June 28, 1990, and published by IARPC in volume 9, (Spring, 1995, pp. 56-57) of the journal "Arctic Research of the United States" (<https://www.arctic.gov/publications/related/arotus.html>).

The Principles address the need to promote mutual respect and communication between scientists and northern residents. These Principles are to be observed when carrying out or sponsoring research in the Arctic or when applying the results of this research. Since 1990, new theoretical and methodological approaches to community engagement and Arctic research have emerged necessitating a review and update of the current Principles with an aim to including more language on partnerships and collaborations, including increased engagement with Indigenous scholars, enhanced community-based